NOSTALGIA

Skiffle star Lonnie plays in city and postman makes his final delivery

MIKE PETTY *AND* ***JAMES MILNER*** *LOOK THROUGH THE* ***CAMBRIDGE NEWS*** *ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

Lonnie Donegan and fans in 1960

Does chewing gum lose flavour on the bed-post...? – 1960

LONNIE Donegan and his skiffle group made their first appearance in Cambridge on the stage of the Regal Cinema and played his songs, 'Does your chewing gum lose its flavour on the bedpost overnight?', 'Gambling Man' and 'Tom Dooley'.

It was a more restrained reception compared with the continual screaming which deafened Cliff Richard when he appeared a few months ago.

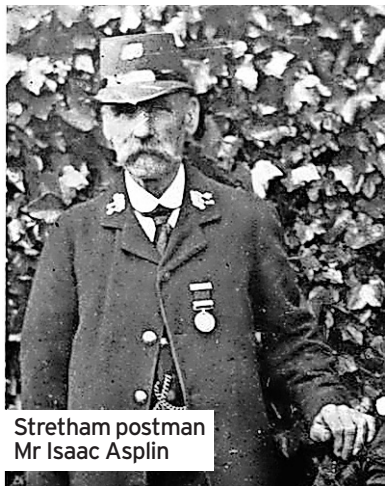
Amongst the other acts were Miki and Griff, a polished husband and wife act who soon had the audience where they wanted them.

'Obliging' and 'punctual' postman retires – 1929

AFTER many years of service, Mr Isaac Asplin has retired from his duty as Stretham postman.

He was born in January 1853 and, up to the age of 19, he resided in the village.

He joined the army in October 1872 and took part in the Afghan war. After seven years in the army, he became a reserve for five years, completing 12 years' service.



Stretham postman Mr Isaac Asplin

During the latter time, he was a handyman and his duties included that of a letter carrier under the late Mr T Swan. After doing this for nine years, he was appointed full-time postman and continued this work for 24 years.

As a postman, Mr Asplin has walked many thousands of miles up to the last two years, going on average about 100 miles a week. He says this has kept him fit and, at the age of 73, he is still very alert and active.

He has always tried to do his duty to the public, being most obliging and very punctual at his post.

Many incidents in his life can be looked upon with interest. He is still crier and passes on his leisure in gardening. In 1910, at the age of 57, when the weathervane of the church was under repair, Mr Asplin ascended the scaffolding to examine the steeple.

We wish him every happiness in his years of retirement which we hope will be many.

Cabs in Station Road, Cambridge

Horrific scenes as vicar found 'cut to pieces' on railway – 1924

PEOPLE from St Ives and the surrounding area were horror-struck upon hearing the rumour that the Vicar of Hemingford Grey had been cut to pieces on the railway bridge at Hemingford Abbotts.

Shortly afterwards, the story was proved beyond doubt, the remains of the reverend gentleman being conveyed to the vicarage.

It is supposed he was making a visit to Houghton to arrange for some special Lenten services and, when on the bridge, was knocked down by a pilot engine.

Cab proprietor lacks propriety, magistrates rule –1904

A CAMBRIDGE cab proprietor was summonsed for not keeping his cab in a proper condition.

A policeman said he found the near side window completely smashed, and the front seat saturated with water.

He moved the cushion and found it was mouldy underneath so that it must have been in that condition for some time.

The side panel had come away from the body and, when it was washed, water ran on to the cushions.

Defendant said that the driver was responsible for the cleanliness of the cab but magistrates said he should know the state of his vehicles and fined him five shillings.

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